

REMARKS

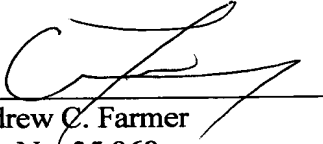
This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed July 31, 2003. Presently, claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 to 32 are pending in the application. Claims 1 to 4, 6 to 10, 15 to 17 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the Bruso U.S. Patent No. 4,636,472. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and requests reconsideration and reexamination of the application.

In the prior Action (Paper 9) the Examiner objected to claims 5, 11 to 14, 18 to 21, 23 and 24 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In this Action that is extended to claims 25 to 32. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, Applicant is confused as the claims were so amended by the previous amendment yet they were still not allowed. Applicant assumes this was an oversight and they remain so amended. Further, Applicant has taken the Examiner's suggestion and amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitation of claim 5 and correspondingly has cancelled claim 5. Accordingly, these claims should now be allowable.

Applicants respectfully disagree that Bruso anticipates claim 15. Claim 15 contains the process limitation of *flowing the antimicrobial agent from an area outside and around the container into the first space through an aperture in the container*. Bruso fails to teach an antimicrobial agent around the container and thus can not anticipate claim 15.

Applicant submits that the application is presently in condition for allowance and requests favorable review and early notice of allowance of the application.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Farmer", is written over a horizontal line.

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